[To be substituted for Government Resolution of the same number and date.]

Revenue Survey and Assessment.

No. 1546.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 26th March 1878.

Letter from the Commissioner, S. D., No. 467, dated 7th March 1878—

Letter from the Survey and Settlement Commissioner, S. D., No. 75, dated 21st January 1878, with accompaniments.
Letter from the Collector of Dhárwár, No. 605, dated 21st February 1878.

Submitting correspondence noted in the margin, containing proposals for the revision of the assessment of the 130 villages formerly comprised in the old Ránebennur Táluka of the Dhárwár Collectorate; and requesting sanction to the proposed settlement.

RESOLUTION.—The thirty years' settlement introduced in 1847-48 into the 130 villages of the old Ránebennur Táluka in the Dhárwár Collectorate having expired, proposals are now submitted in these papers for revising their assessment. These 130 villages are now distributed as under :—

94 villages remain in the present Ránebennur Táluka.

36 villages have been transferred to the Karajgi Táluka.

2. The tract, under report, has been entirely re-measured, as in the case of the other tálukas in which revision settlement has been carried out in the district. A special reason, however, existed in the present case for entire re-measurement, owing to the changes caused by the floods of the Tungbhadra, which formed the eastern boundary of the old Ránebennur Táluka for about 60 miles, the soil along the greater portion of this length consisting principally of "regur" or black cotton soil. The operations both of re-measurement and re-classification, which also became necessary, appear to have been conducted with great care and accuracy.

3. The rainfall is described as being generally sufficient and favourable in the western part of the táluka, but somewhat uncertain and less favourable in the other portion; the chief products being jowári, tur, wheat, oil-seeds, and cotton, of which the last-named forms the largest and most valuable export of the tract, about 35,000 acres, or one-sixth of the area, being under cotton.

4. Before the introduction of the settlement thirty years ago the táluka appears to have been in a very depressed condition.

Three-fifths of the arable land were then waste, the land possessing little or no saleable value; and for some years immediately preceding the expiring settlement, collections were falling off.

5. Since the introduction of the survey settlement, a great change has taken place in the circumstances of the táluka. Four-fifths of the arable land are now in occupation, most of it possessing good saleable value, as evidenced by the fact noticed by the Commissioner, that 81·37 per cent. of the Government occupied land is now cultivated by the occupant himself. The population has increased from 66,064 to 82,469 or about 24·83 per cent.; the number of flat-roofed and tiled houses has risen from 9,160 to 14,784 or 61·39 per cent.; agricultural cattle have increased from 18,042 to 20,110 or 11·46 per cent.; carts from 899 to 3,114 or 246·38; and wells from 647 to 1,032 or 50·21 per cent. The educational statistics are so manifestly inaccurate that they cannot be accepted as in any way representing the state of education in the district, and the Commissioner of Survey should, if he conveniently can, submit a revised statement No. IV. regarding this subject, to be substituted for that accompanying the present report. The most noticeable increase is that which has taken place in the number of flat-roofed and tiled houses and carts. All these facts, coupled with the absence of any remissions during the last two decades of the past settlement or of any outstanding balances except during the famine year of 1876-77, afford ample evidence of the prosperity the tract has attained under the settlement.

6. By Captain Wingate's settlement the villages were arranged under two groups with the maximum rates of Rs. 1-6-0 and Rs. 1-4-0, respectively. Under the altered state of things, Colonel Anderson proposes to divide them into four classes with maximum rates as follows:—

1st Class, comprising	35	villages,	maximum rate	Rs.	2	0	0
2nd do.	„	24	„	„	„	„	1	12	0
3rd do.	„	63	„	„	„	„	1	10	0
4th do.	„	8	„	„	„	„	1	6	0

For rice land, the same rate as that adopted for similar lands in the Bankápur Táluka has been proposed, viz., Rs. 8; and for garden lands, Rs. 12 per acre, in place of Rs. 15, the maximum rate in the previous settlement, a rate which was, however, purely nominal as explained in paragraph 50 of the Survey Commissioner's report. The propriety of these rates has been fully discussed in the settlement of the tálukas named above, and need not therefore be re-considered here. Under the proposed rates, the average for the rice land will be Rs. 2-10-2 against Rs. 1-15-2, and Rs. 4-15-6 against Rs. 6-7-2 for garden lands.

7. The result of the proposals, including those relating to the rice and garden lands, will be to increase the Government demand upon the area in occupation from Rs. 1,15,035 to Rs. 1,61,177, or 40·1 per cent. In seven villages the increase at the revised rates is in excess of 60 per cent. This is accounted for by the fact that these villages contain very superior land.

Asundi.	Yannihoshalli.
Karur.	Choudadanpur.
Taredhalli.	Kodial.
Nelwagal.	

8. Looking to the great improvement which has taken place in the condition of the táluka and its inhabitants, looking also to the very great rise in prices, and to the new markets which the projected Railway from Kárwár to Bellary will open to the produce of this fertile district, His Excellency the Governor in Council thinks that the increase under the proposed rates is certainly not more than it can fairly be expected to bear. He is accordingly pleased to sanction Colonel Anderson's proposals which have been most carefully prepared and thoughtfully worked out, and are concurred in both by the Commissioner, S. D., and the Collector of Dhárwár. They should be carried out, and the usual guarantee for the permanence of the rates given.

9. Under the revised assessment, the average rate per acre will be Rs. 1-0-1, being an increase of 0-4-7 over the present average rate.

10. Government concur with the Survey Commissioner that the holders of inám lands, who use water for irrigational purposes from tanks constructed by Government, should be called upon to pay water rate, unless they can show they have a right to use the water.

11. Much credit is due to Mr. Wingate for the manner in which he has done the work of re-classification of the land, and the preparation of the statistics attached to the report.

JOHN NUGENT,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner, S. D.
The Collector of Dhárwár.
The Survey and Settlement Commissioner, S. D. (with a request that he will submit a draft notification regarding the duration of the settlement sanctioned).
The Survey and Settlement Commissioner, N. D.